

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, on June 19, 2008, I was unavoidably delayed and missed the vote on House amendment No. 1 to H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 431.

CONGRATULATING DONNA
SHALALA—RECIPIENT OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREE-
DOM

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today in honor of a great public servant, Dr. Donna Shalala. On June 19, 2008, Dr. Shalala received the Presidential Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest award given to civilians for exemplary accomplishments that have benefitted the American public.

Dr. Shalala currently serves as the president of the University of Miami, where she works tirelessly making UM a leading, world-class institution. South Florida and the Nation truly benefit from the cutting-edge research now being conducted at the University of Miami.

Prior to taking that position, she served as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, where she was considered one of the most successful Government administrators of modern times. She managed programs, including Social Security, Medicare, the National Institute of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration.

In 2007, President George W. Bush appointed her along with Senator Bob Dole as a co-chair of the Commission on Care for the Returning Wounded Warriors. They evaluated and made recommendations on how wounded service members can transition from active duty to civilian society while receiving the healthcare they deserve.

In addition to her various roles in education and Government, Dr. Shalala was also one of the first Peace Corps volunteers, where she served in Iran from 1962 to 1964.

Her résumé of accolades and accomplishments is commendable. I wish her continued success and thank her for her many contributions to our great Nation. It is a great honor to call her my friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ANGELA
MARTIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to recognize to the work of Dr. Angela Martin.

On August 9, the Martin Foundation will help open the doors to a new medical facility in Anniston, Alabama. The center will provide much-needed acute and chronic medical services for children of all ages and backgrounds, as well as new treatment opportunities for more citizens of Calhoun County.

I am pleased to recognize Dr. Martin today for achieving this noteworthy accomplishment, and for helping bring this important new healthcare facility to our community.

IN HONOR OF DAVE MORA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dave Mora, who is retiring after 35 years of exemplary public service to his community and his country. Dave's public life began with the Boy Scouts and culminates with 17 years as city manager of Salinas, California. Dave began his career in California local government in 1973 with the city of Santa Barbara as Director of Community Relations. He also served as the city manager of the city of Oxnard and Town Manager of Los Gatos, but Mora said the years in Salinas were some of the best in his life. This is where he and his wife Judy raised their two daughters, Gabi and Teresa.

In 1990, Dave Mora came to Salinas to serve as the city manager. Salinas is the largest city in my congressional district and the seat of Monterey County government, so I have had the pleasure of working closely with Dave Mora since I was elected to Congress in 1993. During his tenure as city manager, Dave has faced continuing challenges resulting from State budget crises, yet he was able to restore Salinas' budget from red ink to black ink by making tough decisions while ensuring that the most critical public safety and social services remained in place. Dave's financial acumen enabled city leadership to assure city residents that their shared sacrifice, however painful in the short-run, would result in a financially stronger Salinas.

Dave's city manager skills have been honed by his participation in the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) where he served as president and was involved in a number of international initiatives, including work in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. He currently serves on the ICMA Retirement Corporation Board of Directors. Mora is also a member of the National Academy of Public Administration and has worked on such issues as citizen engagement, social equity, environmental management, and economic development.

Mora's interest in these issues and his career in public service may have been shaped by his experience in the Peace Corps whose motto is, "The toughest job you'll ever love." Dave served in the Philippines from 1967 to 1970, after he graduated from California State University Los Angeles. Following his Peace Corps service, Dave earned a master's degree in public and international affairs at University of Pittsburgh.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in wishing Dave Mora happiness in his well-earned

retirement from "the toughest jobs he ever loved." His commitment to public service is a life well lived.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL RAYMOND G. MIDKIFF

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of COL Raymond G. Midkiff, who has served as commander of the Louisville District, Corps of Engineers since July 2005. Colonel Midkiff will retire from active duty with the U.S. Army on September 1 of this year, with over 26 years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, and raised in Texas, Colonel Midkiff was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from Texas A&M University where he earned a degree in agricultural engineering. Colonel Midkiff completed his graduate studies at Murray State University receiving a masters of science degree in environmental management. During his military career, Colonel Midkiff's leadership, vision, and dedication to duty have contributed significantly to the national defense, economic prosperity, and quality of life for our citizens.

As commander of the Corps of Engineers' Louisville District, Colonel Midkiff oversaw Army, Air Force, and DOD military construction projects valued in excess of \$1.2 billion annually. Major military installations supported include, Fort Campbell and Fort Knox in Kentucky, Scott Air Force Base near St. Louis, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton as well as Army and Air Force Reserve facilities nationwide. Additionally, Colonel Midkiff has been responsible for comprehensive water resources and project operations in 76,000 square miles of the Ohio River watershed, providing flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and commercial navigation.

Colonel Midkiff extended his leadership well beyond the assigned missions of the Corps of Engineers by personally participating in regional events and promoting a strong partnership between Army and civilian engineers. As current president of the Society of American Military Engineers Kentuckiana Post, Colonel Midkiff hosted the 2007 Louisville District Open House, attended by over 400 people, and the 2007 Kentuckiana Post Small Business Workshop attended by over 200 small businesses. Upon his arrival in the Louisville District Colonel Midkiff initiated the district's annual small business workshop which was instrumental in awarding \$344 million under the Small Business Program in FY07.

Prior assignments also reflect Colonel Midkiff's commitment to military readiness and willingness to share his considerable talents for the good of others. Colonel Midkiff has served in a variety of troop and facility assignments that had a tremendous impact on the support of the Army during peace and war. He began his military career overseas as an engineer platoon leader in an atomic demolitions munitions company. He also served as an assistant operations officer during his tour in Germany. He served as an engineer battalion logistics officer, company commander, and facility engineer with the 326th Engineer Battalion. During his time with the 326th Engineer